

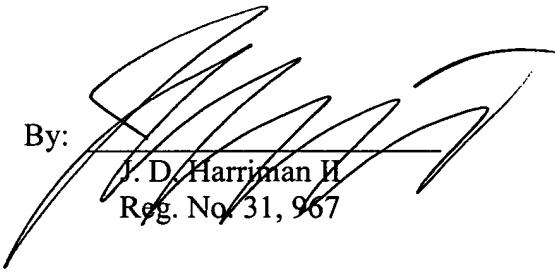
**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-18, and 23-33 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that pending claims 1-18, and 23-33 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,  
COUDERT BROTHERS LLP

Date: October 30, 2003

By:



J. D. Harriman II  
Reg. No. 31, 967